

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1-13 (Canceled):

Claim 14 (Currently amended): A connecting device comprising:

a bendable member which has enough restoring force and rigidity to restore a bent state to an unbent state and foldably connects two housing portions separated from each other by a predetermined distance;

wherein the bendable member is a thin plate having an arc shape in sectional view perpendicular to a connecting direction thereof.

Claim 15 (Currently amended): A connecting device comprising:

a joint member[[s]] having flexibility on which two housing portions are fixed at a predetermined gap; and

a bendable member which has enough restoring force and rigidity to restore a bent state to an unbent state and is attached to the two housing portions so as to be overlapped with the two housing portions,

wherein the bendable member is a thin plate having an arc shape in sectional view perpendicular to a connecting direction thereof.

Claim 16 (Currently amended): The connecting device according to claim 14,

wherein the bendable member is attached to the two housing portions, with a longitudinal concave portion thereof oriented in a direction parallel to a direction in which ~~where~~ the two housing portions are folded.

Claim 17 (Currently amended): The connecting device according to claim 15,

wherein the bendable member is mounted to the two housing portions, with a longitudinal concave portion thereof oriented in a direction parallel to a direction in which ~~where~~ the two housing portions are folded.

Claim 18 (Currently amended): The connecting device according to claim 15,

wherein the joint member[[s]] has a folding force generating means for generating folding force to hold the folded

state of the housing portions at a substantially central region thereof corresponding to the gap between the two housing portions.

Claim 19 (Currently amended): The connecting device according to claim 15,

wherein the joint member[[s]] includes a stopper that is bent to temporarily hold the folded state of the two housing portions.

Claim 20 (Currently amended): A connecting device comprising:

a connecting portion which foldably connects two housing portions, wherein said connecting portion comprises a bendable member, and wherein the bendable member has a curved shape in sectional view perpendicular to a connecting direction thereof;

a flexible wiring member which connects the two housing portions such that they can communicate with each other; and

a receiving antenna which is connected to one of the two housing portions.

Claim 21 (Previously presented): An electronic apparatus comprising:

two housing portions; and

the connecting device according to claim 14 that foldably connects the two housing portions.

Claim 22 (Previously presented): The electronic apparatus according to claim 20, further comprising;

a display unit that is provided in one of the two housing portions; and

an operating unit that is provided in the other housing portion,

wherein, when the two housing portions are in a folded state, the display unit and the operating unit are arranged opposite to each other.

Claim 23 (Currently amended): The electronic apparatus according to claim 20,

~~wherein the bendable member has a curved shape in sectional view,~~

both ends of the bendable member in the longitudinal direction are fixed to leading ends of bosses provided on the two housing portions, and

the leading ends of the bosses have spherical shapes.

Claim 24 (Currently amended): The electronic apparatus according to claim 20,

~~wherein the bendable member has a curved shape in sectional view,~~

both ends of the bendable member in the longitudinal direction are fixed to leading ends of bosses provided on the two housing portions, and

the leading ends of the bosses each have R portions opposite to each other.

Claim 25 (Previously presented): A folding portable terminal apparatus comprising:

an upper housing portion which has a display unit provided therein;

a lower housing portion which has an operating unit provided therein; and

a connecting portion which foldably connects the upper housing portion and the lower housing portion,

wherein the connecting portion includes a plurality of connecting plates each having a curved portion that is curved on an axis parallel to a connecting direction thereof.

Claim 26 (Currently amended): The folding portable terminal apparatus according to claim ~~14~~25,

wherein the plurality of connecting plates overlap each other.

Claim 27 (New): The connecting device according to claim 14,
wherein the bendable member extends in a single straight line from one of the two housing portions to the other housing portion.

Claim 28 (New): The connecting device according to claim 27,
wherein the bendable member has substantially gutter shape in a connecting direction thereof.